

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 0253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT TZ PFOR ECON

SUBJ: SIXTH ASP CONGRESS UNDERWAY

1. SUMMARY. AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY'S SIXTH CONGRESS OPENED IN ZANZIBAR NOVEMBER 18 WITH SPEECH BY ASP PRESIDENT ABOUD JUMBE ON PARTY POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS. JUMBE'S SPEECH MIXED REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC WITH SOME HARD ECONOMIC TALK. HE OUTLINED PRINCIPAL POINTS OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR NEXT THREE YEARS WHICH STRESSES DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORTS, GREATER SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND STRENGTHENING OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION. JUMBE CALLED ON 1,100-ODD ASSEMBLED DELEGATES TO CONSIDER SEVERAL SPECIFIC PROJECTS WHICH CONGRESS LIKELY TO APPROVE BY CLOSING DATE NOVEMBER 29. END SUMMARY.

2. ADDRESSING ASP DELEGATES AND INVITED AFRICAN, SOCISLIST, AND COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATIONS AT NOVEMBER 18 OPENING OF SIXTH AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY CONGRESS, ABOUD JUMBE STRUCK SHRILL REVOLUTIONARY NOTE WHICH CARRIED THROUGHOUT SPEECH. WITH KIND OF RHETORIC WHICH HAS BEEN ATYPICAL OF JUMBE REGIME HE LASHED OUT AT UNSPECIFIED "ENEMIES" OF WORLD REVOLUTION. JUMBE CITED GUINEA-BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE, VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AMONG OTHERS AS LATEST ON LIST OF REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSES, SAYING THAT THESE VICTORIES WERE WARNING TO COLONIALISTS AND THEIR STOOGES THAT OPPRESSED PEOPLE WOULD NO LONGER TOLERATE OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION.

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3. JUMBE BERATED CAPITALISTS AND IMPERIALISTS, CLAIMING THAT INSOL-

ENCE OF MIGHT BEING TORN TO SHREDS. HE ALSO BLAMED RICH COUNTRIES FOR SQUANDERING FOOD, LEADING TO STARVATION FOR THE POOR. HE STATED THIS SITUATION AGGRAVATED BY EXPLOITATION CARRIED OUT UNDER CAPITALISM AND SAID WEALTH OF CAPITALISTS COMES ONLY FROM EXPLOITING BACKWARDNESS OF POOR NATIONS. HE CITED SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW ZANZIBAR BEING EXPLOITED THROUGH INCREASED PRICES OF IMPORTS, CURIOUSLY CHOOSING BASIC FOODSTUFFS BOUGHT ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM COUNTRIES WHOSE FRATERNAL PARTIES INVITED AS SPECIAL GUESTS OF ASP CONGRESS.

4. ON MORE CONSTRUCTIVE TRACK, JUMBE DWELLED AT LENGTH ON ZANZIBAR'S ECONOMIC NEEDS. HE CALLED ON DELEGATES TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE ON PLANS ADOPTED BY FIFTH ASP CONGRESS IN 1972 AND TO PREPARE AND APPROVE NEZNPEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR NEXT THREE YEARS. COMMENT: THIS PLOY OF COURSE HIGHLY COSMETIC AS LARGELY ILLITERATE GROUP OF MORE THAN 1000 DELEGATES COULD NOT POSSIBLY ASSEMBLE USEFUL PLAN IN ELEVEN DAYS. PREVIOUSLY-PREPARED PLANS WILL BE PASSED TO DELEGATES BY ASP LEADERSHIP THROUGH SIX COMMITTEES WITH DIFFERING RESPONSIBILITIES. DURING NOVEMBER 18 MEETING SOME UNTUTORED DELEGATES TENDED TO ENDORSE IMMEDIATELY ANY PROPOSALS MADE BY JUMBZ. THIS APPEARED TO EMBARRASS JUMBE AND HE HAD TO URGE THEM TO RESTRAIN THEIR ENTHUSIASM. END COMMENT.

5. JUMBE DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ZANZIBAR'S GREAT DEPENDENCE ON EXPORT OF ONE NON-ESSENTIAL COMMODITY. HE CALLED FOR A TEN PERCENT ANNUAL REDUCTION OF DEPENDENCE ON CLOVES, SUGGESTING EXP
NSION OF FISHING INDUSTRY, FRUIT EXPORTS, AND DEVELOPMENT IN SHIPPING AND PORTS AS ALTERNATIVES. HE ALSO CALLED FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SUGAR, RICE AND MAIZE, STATING THERE COULD BE NO RELAXATION UNTIL ONE-YEAR RESERVE OF THESE COMMODITIES ACCUMULATED.

6. JUMBE DESCRIBED ZANZIBAR AS SORELY BESET BY OPEC PRICE INCREASES, INFLATION, AND OTHER WORLD-SHARED ECONOMIC ILLS WHICH COULD BRING ROOF CRASHING DOWN AT ANY MOMENT. HE LATER LIGHTENED SOMEWHAT CRISIS ATMOSPHERE HE EVIDENTLY TRYING TO CREATE BY SAYING ZANZIBAR NOT REALLY SO BADLY OFF, WITH \$3.4 MILLION IN EAST AFRICAN ACCOUNTS AND \$63.5 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AS OF NOVEMBER 14. HE SAID FUTURE FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO BELOW LEVEL
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OF APPROXIMATELY \$60 MILLION AND SAID IMPORTS WOULD HAVE TO BE CUT BACK FURTHER.

7. ASP-TANU MERGER ISSUE AVOIDED BY JUMBE IN OPENING STATEMENT.

8. COMMENT: WITH ABUNDANCE OF REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC, ASP CONGRESS GOT OFF TO UNCONSTRUCTIVE BEGINNING AND THIS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER 19 AS GUEST PARTY DELEGATIONS REGISTER THEIR NO

DOUBT EQUALLING RINGING REJOINDERS. WITH REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS
ISSUE OUT OF THE WAY, CONGRESS CAN THEREAFTER GET DOWN TO MAIN JOB
OF OUTLINING DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVER NEXT THREE YEARS. JUMBE HAS HAD
DIFFICULTY LINING UP ALL OF ASP HIERARCHY AND REVCO BEHIND HIS
PLANS AND IT NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT HE SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING
OBJECTIONS AT LATE-HOUR PARTY EXECUTIVE SESSIONS.
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